

**§ 572.708**

(h) Development of transportation technology and intermodal services.

(i) Malpractices.

(j) Use of service contracts, time volume rate schemes and loyalty contracts.

(k) Conference relationship with shippers and shipper groups.

(l) Governmental and other foreign requirements affecting the conference.

[57 FR 40619, Sept. 4, 1992. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 11576, Mar. 21, 1996]

**§ 572.708 Retention of records.**

Each agreement required to file minutes pursuant to this subpart shall retain a copy of each document listed in said minutes for a minimum period of 3 years after the date the document is distributed to the members. Such documents may be requested by the Director, Bureau of Economics and Agreement Analysis, in writing by reference to a specific minute, and shall indicate that the documents will be received in confidence. Requested documents shall be furnished by the parties within the time specified.

[61 FR 11577, Mar. 21, 1996]

**§ 572.709 Application for waiver.**

(a) Upon a showing of good cause, the Commission may waive any requirement of this subpart.

(b) A request for such a waiver must be approved in advance of the filing of the Monitoring Report or minutes to which the requested waiver would apply. The Commission will take into account the presence or absence of shipper complaints in considering an application for a waiver. Requests for a waiver shall state:

(1) The specific requirements from which relief is sought;

(2) the special circumstances requiring the requested relief; and

(3) why granting the requested waiver will not substantially impair effective regulation of the agreement.

[61 FR 11576, Mar. 21, 1996]

**46 CFR Ch. IV (10–1–98 Edition)**

**Subpart H—Conference Agreements**

**§ 572.801 Independent action.**

(a) Each conference agreement shall specify the independent action ("IA") procedures of the conference, which shall provide that any conference member may take independent action on any rate or service item required to be filed in a tariff under section 8(a) of the Act upon not more than 10 calendar days' notice to the conference and shall otherwise be in conformance with section 5(b)(8) of the Act.

(b)(1) Each conference agreement that provides for a period of notice for independent action shall establish a fixed or maximum period of notice to the conference. A conference agreement shall not require or permit a conference member to give more than 10 calendar days' notice to the conference, except that in the case of a new or increased rate the notice period shall conform to the requirements of § 514.9(b) of this chapter.

(2) A conference agreement shall not prescribe notice periods for adopting, withdrawing, postponing, canceling, or taking other similar actions on independent actions.

(c) Each conference agreement shall indicate the conference official, single designated representative, or conference office to which notice of independent action is to be provided. A conference agreement shall not require notice of independent action to be given by the proposing member to the other parties to the agreement.

(d) A conference agreement shall not require a member who proposes independent action to attend a conference meeting, to submit any further information other than that necessary to accomplish the filing of the independent tariff item, or to comply with any other procedure for the purpose of explaining, justifying, or compromising the proposed independent action.

(e) A conference agreement shall specify that any new rate or service item proposed by a member under independent action shall be included by the

conference in its tariff for use by that member effective no later than 10 calendar days after receipt of the notice and by any other member that notifies the conference that it elects to adopt the independent rate or service item on or after its effective date.

(f)(1) As it pertains to this part, “adopt” means the assumption in identical form of an originating member’s independent action rate or service item, or a particular portion of such rate or service item. If a carrier adopts an IA at a lower rate than the conference rate when there is less than 30 days remaining on the original IA, the adopted IA should be made to expire 30 days after its effectiveness to comply with the statutory 30-day notice requirement. In the case of an independent action time/volume rate (“IA TVR”), the dates of the adopting IA may vary from the dates of the original IA, so long as the duration of the adopting IA is the same as that of the originating IA. Furthermore, no term other than “adopt” (e.g., “follow,” “match”) can be used to describe the action of assuming as one’s own an initiating carrier’s IA. Additionally, if a party to an agreement chooses to take on an IA of another party, but alters it, such action is considered a new IA and must be filed pursuant to the IA filing and notice provisions of the applicable agreement.

(2) An independent action time/volume rate filed by a member of a rate-making agreement may be adopted by another member of the agreement, provided that the adopting member takes on the original IA TVR in its entirety without change to any aspect of the original rate offering (except beginning and ending dates in the time period) (i.e., a separate TVR with a separate volume of cargo but for the same duration). Any subsequent IA TVR offering which results in a change in any aspect of the original IA TVR, other than the name of the offering carrier or the beginning date of the adopting IA TVR, is a new independent action and shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of the applicable agreement. The adoption procedures discussed above do not authorize the participation by an adopting carrier in the cargo volume of the originating carrier’s IA TVR. Mem-

ber lines may file and participate in joint IA TVRs, if permitted to do so under the terms of their agreement; however, no carrier may participate in an IA TVR already filed by another carrier.

(g) A conference agreement shall not require or permit individual member lines to be assessed on a per carrier usage basis the costs and/or administrative expenses incurred by the agreement in processing independent action filings.

(h) A conference agreement may not permit the conference to unilaterally designate an expiration date for an independent action taken by a member line. The right to determine the duration of an IA remains with the member line, and a member line must be given the opportunity to designate whatever duration it chooses for its IA, regardless if the duration is for a special period or open ended. Only in instances where a member line gives its consent to the conference, or where a member line freely elects not to provide for the duration of its IA after having been given the opportunity, can the conference designate an expiration date for the member line’s IA.

(i) All new conference agreements filed on or after the effective date of this section shall comply with the requirements of this section. All other conference agreements shall be modified to comply with the requirements of this section no later than 90 days from the effective date of this section. However, any effective IA TVR adopted and participated in by other member lines at the time this section is published shall be permitted to remain in effect until its specified termination date.

(j) Any new conference agreement or any modification to an existing conference agreement which does not comply with the requirements of this section shall be rejected pursuant to § 572.601.

(k) If ratemaking is by sections within a conference, then any notice to the conference required by § 572.801 may be made to the particular ratemaking section.

[57 FR 54531, Nov. 19, 1992, as amended at 60 FR 27230, May 23, 1995]